

# Happiness In A Shoe Box

By Jason McKowski

LEHIGH VALLEY - What do you get when you have 300+ donors; 75 volunteers; in-kind supporters for space, transportation, boxes & tables; topped off with an awesome staff that stops at nothing EQUALS - 40 nonprofit agencies here in our community sharing happiness in a shoebox with over 9,000 children this year.

From 1 box at a time to 855 boxes by the Northampton County Bar Association Young Lawyers, donors came and dropped off their boxes. Our team and amazing volunteers mobilized to wrap, shop, sort and fill orders. A special shout out to Art of Dance, Crayola, Enterprise, Give Back Lehigh Valley, Josh Early Candies, LG Photography, RCN, St. Thomas Moore and everyone of our donors.

We are so overwhelmed and joyous to be able to share that every agency was able to receive their boxes and donations of items to celebrate the holidays with their children. The nonprofit organizations came fully prepared to pick up their orders and volunteers mobilized to help lift and load the boxes. These nonprofits will now have the joy of watching their children & youth celebrate the holidays with the happiness that comes from these shoeboxes.

We are so blessed to have the great fortune to run this program each year and it continues to grow. Thank you for helping us provide HAPPINESS IN A SHOE BOX through our 2019 Holiday Hope Chests program!



# Portland Lodge #311, Annual Election

By Walter Emery

PORTLAND – Dean A Constable, of Bangor, has been elected as Worshipful Master of Portland Lodge #311, F&AM, during the Lodge’s annual election meeting held on December 12. As the elected head of the lodge, he will preside during all of 2020, the lodge’s 164th year of organization. He succeeds Bradley R. Johnson, of Effort, who installed him in office. Constable is a 1991 graduate of Bangor Area High School and a 1995 graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He is currently the Operations Manager of the Easton Line Department of Met-Ed. The son of James and Nancy Constable of Bangor, Dean and his wife Krista are the parents of two sons: Andrew, also a member of Portland Lodge, and Colby.

A recipient of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania’s Master Builder Award, given to outstanding Freemasons during their first year of membership, Constable has furthered his Masonic education by becoming a member of Ezra Royal Arch Chapter #216 in Bethlehem.

Outside of Masonry, Constable is an active volunteer fireman with the Liberty Fire Company in Bangor. In his spare time he enjoys boating, hunting and snowmobiling with family and friends.

Elected as Senior Warden was Michael R. Jones, of Bangor, with John H. Rigione, of Bangor, being elected as Junior Warden. Walter C. Emery, of Portland, and Stephen M. Ahner, of Bangor, were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectfully. Re-elected as Trustees were: John M. Bach of Mt. Bethel, and Jody C. Pysher and Craig Hughes of Bangor. Carl J. Palmeri, II, of Roseto, was re-elected as Representative to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, with Gilbert F. Walter, of Stroudsburg, re-elected as Substitute Representative. All officers will begin their terms on St. John’s Day, December 27th.

Portland Lodge takes an active part in the Slate Belt community, sponsoring the annual Masonic Motorama at the Plainfield Farmers Grove, as well as the Slate Belt Toys for Tots event, held annually at the Plainfield Township Fire Hall. The lodge also continues its tradition of remembering the widows of deceased members with poinsettias each Christmas season. In addition, the lodge presents scholarship awards to graduating seniors at Bangor Area High School. Not surprisingly, Freemasonry has been called “the world’s greatest philanthropy” for its contributions to charitable causes.

The Lodge’s annual St. John’s Day Dinner will be held on Saturday evening, December 21, 2019, at 6:30 pm, at the Broadway Pub, on the corner of Broadway and 1st Street in Bangor. All members of the Lodge and their guests are invited to attend; there will be a charge for guests but no charge for members.

With approximately 250 members, Portland Lodge is the oldest of eight lodges in the 50th Masonic District, comprising Monroe County and northern Northampton County, and is one of over 475 lodges in Pennsylvania.

Portland Lodge’s first stated meeting of 2020 will be held on Thursday, January 9, at 7:30 pm, with dinner preceding the meeting at 6:30. The newly appointed officers will be introduced and monthly programs for the year will be announced. Following the lodge meeting, the annual meeting of the Masonic Hall Association will be held.

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Best of Show

## Twenty-Fourth Annual Scenic Skylands Photo Contest Winners Announced

## Photo Contest Winners Announced

By Dennis Austin

WARREN COUNTY - Twenty-Fourth Annual Scenic Skylands Photo Contest Winners Announced.

The Warren County Cultural & Heritage Division of Land Preservation is pleased to announce the 24th Annual Skylands Photo Contest winners. Entries were received from photographers throughout the region. International award winning professional photographer, Bob Beaver of High Bridge Village Studio, awarded over \$2300 in prize money. Best of Show winner, Bob Baker from Hackettstown, entered in the Professional category.

Winners in the Student category include: Eric Paruta of Washington winning the First Place Blue Ribbon; Anton Chernykh and his brother Ilya Chernykh from Oxford won the Second and Third Place Ribbons respectively while Erika Boone and her brother Noah Boone from Verona tied for the Honorable Mention Fourth Place.

The Amateur category winners are: Linda Aller of Washington taking the First Place Blue Ribbon. Kathie Baker of Hackettstown took the second Place Ribbon, while Jane Bullis of Belvidere won the Third Place Ribbon, and Sue Lizzi from Oxford garnered the Fourth Place Ribbon.

Professional Category results include: First Place Blue Ribbon winner Kathleen Rupff of Blairstown, Second and Third Place Ribbons went to Gordon Perry and his wife Jean Marie

Perry respectively, from Saylorburg, Pennsylvania; the Fourth Place Honorable Mention Ribbon went to Melissa Deibel of Oxford.

Other contestants vying for Ribbons and prize money in this Twenty-Fourth Annual Skylands Photo contest include: Danielle Boone, Tyler Johnson, Andrew Knapp, Maria Lioia, Lauren Mersch, Mildred Rice, and Carol Southerland.

Professional photographer and proprietor Robert C. Beaver, of the High Bridge Village Studio, who judged this year's competition and offered these thoughts:

"The entries this year were very diversified and difficult to judge. The Best of Show was a very difficult decision to make from all the entries. I feel Bob Baker, the photographer in this photo captured a very detailed and appealing image. All entries from snow to farm animals show talent. I am pleased to have been chosen to judge this show and believe the final choices are well deserving." Mr. Bob.

Our 24th Annual Scenic Skylands Photo Contest will be displayed until Friday, January 17, 2020, in the Wayne Dumont Jr. Administration Hall Gallery, on Route 519 South in Belvidere. The gallery is open to the public during regular weekday business hours and is an ADA accessible location. The Warren County Cultural and Heritage Division of Land Preservation presents this show with support from the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Individuals who prefer, may call the relay service at 711. For further information please call (908) 453-4381 or visit our website at: warrenparks.com/wcchc/.

## MOM "HAPPY 92<sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY! "GOD BLESS YOU" !!!



Filomena "Mamie" La Penna will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday on Jan. 4, 2020. Filomena is a world traveler. A partial list of her travels include : Aruba, Bermuda, the Bahama's, the Caribbean, Central & South America, the Galapagos Islands, Mexico, Panama Canal, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Egypt, The Holy Land, Europe including Italy, Germany, Denmark, Romania, Croatia, Greece, & other countries, Canada, All US States including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico & the Virgin Islands. Filomena travels with her son Frank.





### AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 927 Presents COMEDY NIGHT

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2020**

**\$30** DINNER AT 6:00PM - BYOB  
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